

## ***State gives \$3 million to bolster local stormwater programs***

In the state's continued efforts to help local governments run successful stormwater management programs, the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) has awarded \$3 million for collaborative projects that will provide regional or statewide benefits.

Many of the projects entail education and outreach activities aimed at citizens and businesses. Some include the purchase of shared equipment such as street sweepers.

This carry-forward funding, approved by the 2009 state Legislature, helps local governments meet their ongoing need to adequately fund their required stormwater programs.

Stormwater runoff is the state's largest source of urban water pollution carrying a mix of bacteria and chemicals downstream into the state's lakes, rivers and marine waters.

Here are the 15 projects with the lead local government listed first:

- Asotin, Asotin County and Clarkston (shared lead) - Eastern Washington Construction Field Guide. This project receives \$125,000 to develop a field guide to prevent erosion and control sediment in Eastern Washington. The guide will help Eastern Washington construction site operators comply with municipal and construction stormwater permits.
- Asotin County - Eastern Washington Stormwater Outreach Grant. This \$63,000 project will develop education and outreach materials, as required by the state stormwater permit. This will help provide a consistent message throughout the region regarding water quality and stormwater. Clarkston is a partner in this project that will benefit all of Eastern Washington.
- Asotin County - Asotin Group Cooperative Equipment Purchase Agreement. Asotin County will purchase a high efficiency sweeper with \$180,000 that can access difficult areas and share its use with Asotin and Clarkston. The sweeper helps the county and cities meet state stormwater requirements.
- Bellingham - Shared Sweeping for Whatcom County NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) Permittees. Using \$233,000, Bellingham will purchase a regenerative air vacuum street sweeper and share its use during the next 10 years with partners Ferndale, Whatcom County and Port of Bellingham. Enhanced street sweeping will help all four municipalities meet water quality standards, as well as local water cleanup goals in several watersheds. Bellingham will maintain the equipment and work out a use schedule by the partners.
- Clark County - Citizen Involvement in the Protection and Maintenance of Stormwater Facilities. This grant worth \$238,000 will fund a project to create a stormwater education and training project for seven jurisdictions within Clark County. The goal is to provide homeowners associations with knowledge throughout Clark County about current best management practices for their stormwater facilities. The program will reach a variety of groups through a series of community

workshops, videos, newsletters and brochures. Project partners include Vancouver, Battle Ground, Camas, Washougal, LaCenter and Ridgefield.

- **Kitsap County - Stormwater Business Education Templates.**  
This statewide-benefit project gets approximately \$95,000. It will develop and test the effectiveness of public education activities to help commercial businesses across the state improve their awareness of stormwater pollution problems, publicize a spill hotline, and provide behavior change advice. Kitsap County's partners include Eastern Washington's Asotin County, plus Everett, Vancouver and King County.
- **Kitsap County - Western Washington Best Management Practices Sizing Tool for Small Cities.**  
This \$255,000 project to benefit Western Washington will develop software that will determine the size required for low impact development stormwater facilities, such as rain gardens. The facility sizes need to be large enough to manage the stormwater flows from rainstorms, depending on the specific site conditions. Project designers will use the software to design projects that will meet flow requirements in the stormwater permits. Partners include Washington State University Puyallup, Thurston and Pierce counties, Seattle, Bellevue, Everett, Issaquah, Sammamish and the Home Builders Association of Kitsap County.
- **Puyallup - Process, Protocol and Product Evaluation Program for New Stormwater Emerging Technologies.**  
This \$500,000 project creates and maintains a program to provide timely and complete review of current technologies evaluating new emerging stormwater treatment technologies. The statewide-benefit project's partners include WSU Puyallup, Seattle, Tacoma, the Port of Tacoma, University of Washington Tacoma Center for Urban Waters, and the Association of Washington Business.
- **Puyallup - Stormwater Technical Resource and Emerging Technologies Center.**  
This nearly \$500,000 project creates a resource center for stormwater management solutions and education. The center will provide a bridge between regulation and implementation to support real-world solutions. It will merge academic, science-based research with real-world needs of municipal and business professionals. The center will house long-term and ongoing stormwater research designed to support relevant and current stormwater management strategies and practices.
- **Seattle - Automated Data Validation Software for NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) Permit Holders.**  
This project gets approximately \$98,000 to develop an efficient and cost-effective way for local governments subject to stormwater monitoring regulations to validate their required stormwater sampling data. This software will improve the integrity of the data, its quality and uniformity. The improved data will increase confidence for policy-making decisions. Snohomish County is a partner. The project will benefit Snohomish, Clark, King and Pierce counties, plus Seattle and Tacoma.
- **Seattle - Puget Sound Science Connections Curriculum Extensions.**  
The project gets \$96,000 to create an education program for public schools in Everett and Seattle and Tacoma that teaches about harm caused from unmanaged stormwater. The program aims to improve individual behaviors to protect water quality. The modules will include a classroom video, home extension learning for the adult community, a field exploration module, and a service-

learning module. Partners include Tacoma, Everett Public Schools, Tacoma Public Schools and Seattle Public Schools.

- Snohomish County - STORM Integrated Public Education Campaign.  
The Puget Sound education/outreach project gets \$500,000 to extend the *Puget Sound Starts Here* media campaign (<http://www.pugetsoundstartshere.org/>). The funding will help the project evaluate the campaign region-wide, develop a plan to expand the campaign to social media, and augment the delivery of campaign messages at the local level. Partners include King, Kitsap, Skagit, Thurston and Whatcom counties, and 51 Puget Sound cities. STORM stands for Stormwater Outreach for Regional Municipalities.
- Snohomish County - Stormwater Pollution Prevention Education Outreach for Mobile Businesses.  
This \$160,000 project aims to provide education and outreach to mobile businesses that conduct carpet cleaning, duct cleaning, and pressure washing, to improve their habits in disposing wash water. Some businesses improperly dispose wash water into storm drains, where it is not treated. Storm drains discharge into lakes, rivers and Puget Sound. Partners in this project to benefit the state include Seattle, Kitsap County, Wenatchee and Moses Lake.
- Wenatchee - Wenatchee Valley IDDE (Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination) Program Plan Implementation.  
The city along with partners, East Wenatchee, Chelan and Douglas counties, will use \$77,000 to develop a cache of materials for use by residents, businesses and schools to respond to illicit stormwater discharges. The project partners will purchase equipment for spill response, conduct field testing, and develop charity car wash kits for sharing.
- Wenatchee - Stormwater Operation & Maintenance Plan Proposal-Wenatchee.  
This project gets approximately \$100,000 to develop an operation and maintenance template that Wenatchee and its partners will customize for use in East Wenatchee, and in Chelan and Douglas Counties. The project partners would provide staff training and make the template available to other entities.

In all, 28 entities competed for this grant funding, requesting a total of \$6.7 million.

The funding comes on the heels of a \$5.5 million “pass through” grant program in which each phase 2 municipality received \$50,000 to help run their programs. Phase 2 is a municipal stormwater permit term that refers to the state’s group of second largest cities and counties subject to stormwater regulations after the state’s largest cities and counties, called Phase 1 jurisdictions.

Find information about the state’s previous stormwater funding at:  
[www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/MuniStrmwtrFunding.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/MuniStrmwtrFunding.html)

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